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Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 INRE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RSE/SOV: J COLLINS:DP
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AF/I:WHLEWYS
----------252300Z 114211 /42
O R 252247Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 067010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, IR

SUBJECT: PODGORNY VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: TEHRAN 2494

FOR CHARGE

1. FOLLOWING IS INR SPECIAL ANALYSIS ON PODGORNY'S TRIP TO AFRICA FOR USE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE SHAH DURING YOUR FORTHCOMING AUDIENCE. THE TEXT IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND USE ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE HANDED TO IRANIAN OFFICIALS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: PODGORNY'S TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA,

AND ZAMBIA, WHICH BEGINS ON MARCH 22, IS UNLIKELY TO
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PRODUCE ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN CURRENT SOVIET POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA, ALTHOUGH SOME MOVE TO STRENGTHEN MOSCOW'S HAND IN MOZAMBIQUE IS A POSSIBILITY.

3. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF PODGORNY'S TRIP, THE FIRST BY A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET TOP LEADERSHIP TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (EXCEPT FOR SOMALIA) IS PROBABLY:

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-- TO DRAMATIZE MOSCOW'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE

AFRICANS IN THE BLACK-WHITE CONFRONTATION; AND

-- TO CONVINCE AFRICAN LEADERS THAT THE USSR --
UNLIKE THE US AND THE WEST -- CAN AND WILL ACT
DECISIVELY IN SUPPORT OF THE "LIBERATION" STRUGGLE.

4. PODGORNY WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE NEW TO SAY OR TO
OFFER ON THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, BUT HE WILL CERTAINLY
REITERATE THE USSR'S HARD-LINE COMMITMENT TO THE MILITARY
STRUGGLE AGAINST SMITH. HE MAY ALSO SEEK TO LEARN HOW
STRONGLY THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS BACK THE NKOMO-LED
ZAPU GUERRILLA FACTION. NKOMO VISITED MOSCOW LAST MONTH
AND REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF INCREASED SOVIET
SUPPORT, A MOVE WHICH, IF PROVED TRUE, WOULD BE IN KEEPING
WITH MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO INFLUENCE BOTH THE CIVILIAN AND
THE MILITARY ELEMENTS AMONG THE NATIONALISTS.

5. PODGORNY MAY HAVE A MANDATE TO OFFER INCREASED AID TO
THE GUERRILLAS. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS ARE SENSITIVE TO
AFRICAN CONCERN ABOUT ANY DIRECT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN
THE GUERRILLAS' FACTIONAL STRIFE, AND HE WILL PROBABLY
CONFINE HIMSELF TO SUPPORT FOR MORE UNITY AMONG THE
GUERRILLAS.

6. PODGORNY CAN BE EXPECTED TO STRESS THE LONG-TERM NATURE
OF MOSCOW'S INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO PRESS FOR
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TANGIBLE RECOGNITION BY THE AFRICAN LEADERS OF A
PERMANENT SOVIET VOICE IN THE AREA. IN THIS REGARD,
MOZAMBIQUE REPORTEDLY IS TO BE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE
PODGORNY TRIP. PRESIDENT MACHEL WOULD WELCOME A HIGH-LEVEL
SOVIET IMPRIMATUR ON HIS TROUBLED REGIME; HE MAY RECEIVE
ADDITIONAL OFFERS OF SOVIET AID. IN RETURN, THE SOVIETS
MAY PRESSURE HIM FOR A FRIENDSHIP TREATY OR A PARTY-
TO-PARTY ACCORD. HOWEVER, MACHEL IS LIKELY TO MOVE
CAUTIOUSLY ON ANY SUCH PROPOSAL, LEST TOO CLOSE IDENTIFI-
CATION WITH MOSCOW AROUSE ANTAGONISM FROM OTHER AFRICANS,
THE CHINESE, AND THE WEST.

7. IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA, MOSCOW PROBABLY HOPES THAT
PODGORNY'S TALKS WITH NYERERE AND KAUNDA, AND FURTHER BI-
LATERAL AID, WILL ENHANCE ITS IMAGE AS AN ACCEPTABLE
LONG-TERM PARTNER. NYERERE AND KAUNDA STILL REGARD THE
USSR WITH SUSPICION. END TEXT.
VANCE

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, IR, (PODGORNY, NIKOLAY VIKTOROVICH)
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